

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3195
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2003
RESEARCH FOR MEDICINES VACCINES
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the success attained by the Government in the development of anti-retro viral medicines and vaccines;
- (b) whether any proposal to make prices of these drugs cheaper and affordable is under the consideration of the Government;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the follow up research projects going on in the Ministry and its various units;
- (e) whether any agreement has been signed with any UN Agency/Pharmaceuticals Research Institute in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details of the coordination with HRD Ministry, Departments of Science, NACO, ICMR, NARI in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (f) The Indian Council of Medical Research and the Department of Biotechnology are supporting research in the area of anti retroviral drugs and vaccines against HIV/AIDS.

The National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), Pune, under the Indian council of Medical Research is engaged in R&D and clinical trials of anti-retroviral drugs for HIV. The National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health, Mumbai has also developed vaginal Microbicides, two of which are undergoing clinical trials.

There is no proposal under consideration to reduce the prices of these anti-retroviral medicines and vaccines as they are outside the price control under the provisions of Drugs (Price Control) Order 1995.

The National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) and the Indian Council of Medical Research have entered into a tripartite partnership with International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), USA to develop a vaccine using six genes representing relevant antigens of the Indian HIV Strain. The prototype of the vaccine has undergone animal testing and the clinical trials will commence by the last quarter of 2003 at Pune, Maharashtra.